

1952Z 19 NOV 65

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25X1A

DIRECTOR

IMMEDIATE

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FOR: 1747Z 19 NOV 65

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IN-72819

TACKLE

RE 462 25X1A
024
MR TO MR. CUNNINGHAM

25X1A 1. MET WITH [REDACTED] DIVERS THIS EVENING WHO CALLED TO INDICATE THEY DO NOT HAVE CAPABILITY OF DIVING BEYOND 140 FT. DEPTH WITHOUT DECOMPRESSION UNIT OR DEEP DIVING GEAR WHICH NORMALLY AVAILABLE ABOARD ARS (AUXILLARY SUBMARINE RESCUE) SHIP OR ASR (AUXILLARY SALVAGE RESCUE) SHIP.

2. THEY ARRIVED AT THIS CONCLUSION AFTER TODAY'S DIVING OPERATION WHICH CARRIED THEM TO 120 FT DEPTH WITH VISIBILITY OF APPROX 8-10 FT. LOWER DEPTH WOULD HAVE LESS VISIBILITY, EXTREMELY LIMITING VISIBILITY AND TIME IN SEARCH AREA. AT 140 FT DEPTH, BASED ON THEIR TECHNICAL MANUALS, MAXIMUM SEARCH TIME IS LIMITED TO 10 MIN, INCLUDING DESCENT TIME. AFTER INITIAL DIVE THEY INDICATE CANNOT DIVE AT THIS DEPTH FOR ANOTHER TWELVE HOUR PERIOD PER MANUAL. BEYOND 140 FT DEPTH THEY CLAIM CANNOT DIVE UNLESS TYPE GEAR REFERRED PARA ONE AVAILABLE, AND BRINGING

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GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

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OUT SHADOW GRAPH AND PERSONNEL AT THIS TIME WOULD BE USELESS AND COSTLY EXERCISE. BOTH DIVERS APOLOGETIC FOR NOT MENTIONING THIS AT TIME OF LAST MEETING AND REGRET LAST MINUTE NOTIFICATION TO ME.

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3. DIVERS WERE QUERIED REGARDS THEIR BEST ESTIMATE OF DEPTH OF ENTIRE SEARCH AREA TO DETERMINE PERCENTAGE AND LOCATION OF AREA WHICH WITHIN 140 FT DEPTH RANGE. SINCE THEY NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE THEY WILL ASK TO MAKE FATHOMETER RUN TOMORROW WHICH WILL TAKE SEVERAL HOURS TIME. THEY FEEL THIS SHOULD BE DONE FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY'S SAKE SINCE ACTUAL DEPTHS EXPERIENCED SO FAR VARY TO SOME DEGREE WITH CHARTS. THEREFORE NO TIME LOST UNDERTAKING THIS EXERCISE. IF GREATER PERCENTAGE LESS THAN 140 FT IN DEPTH IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE HOLDING DIVERS IN PLACE IN CONJUNCTION WITH USE OF SHADOW GRAPH EQUIPMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION THEY POINT OUT LIMITED TIME CAN BE SPENT AT 140 FT DEPTH WITH PRESENT UDT GEAR AND IF ARTICLE IS LOCATED BY SHADOW GRAPH IT COULD TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME FOR DIVERS TO LOCATE ITEM BECAUSE OF VISIBILITY AND UNDERWATER TIME FACTORS.

WE PURSUED THIS POINT TO DETERMINE TIME ELEMENT INVOLVED AND THEIR OUTSIDE ESTIMATE WAS ONE (1) WEEK OR LESS.

4. AFTER WE LISTENED TO THIS RATHER LONG STORY, DIVERS WERE QUERIED WHETHER THEY WERE ADVISED BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM STATES THAT DEPTHS INVOLVED WOULD INCLUDE 200 FT RANGE AND BOTH REPORTED NEGATIVE REPEAT NEGATIVE.

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5. WE RECOMMEND TEMPORARY DELAY OF THE SHADOW GRAPH EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL. IF FATHOMETER READINGS REFLECT ANY AREA TO BE GREATER THAN 140 FT DEPTHS BOTH DIVERS FEEL THEY SHOULD DISCONTINUE THEIR ACTIVITIES AND RETURN TO US, SINCE THEY WILL NOT BE CAPABLE OF COMPLETING THEIR MISSION. IN THIS CASE IT WOULD BE NECESSARY THEN TO CALL ON THE U.S. NAVY WHO HAS ARS OR ASR CAPABILITY WHICH COULD BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SHADOW GRAPH. DIVERS ALSO INDICATE THAT IF SUCH VESSEL IS MADE AVAILABLE THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE SINCE ASR FULLY NAVY EQUIPPED AND MANNED TO ACCOMPLISH MISSION.

6. ADVISE YOUR FEELINGS REGARDS PARA 5 ABOVE.

END OF MESSAGE

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